



900 Chapel St., 9th Floor, New Haven, Connecticut 06510-2807
Phone (203) 498-3000 • Fax (203) 562-6314 • www.ccm-ct.org

THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 8, 2010

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

Raised House Bill 5422 "An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes".

Among other things,

- Section 2 of this bill would provide education mandates relief by allowing local and regional boards of education an additional month to provide to notify their non-tenured teachers that their contracts will not be renewed for the following school year.

CCM has asked that additional education mandates relief also be included in legislation this year:

- Change the reporting requirement of available school readiness program spaces for purposes of state school readiness grants, from monthly to every other month, and
- Eliminate the requirement that school boards conduct an instruction time and facility usage assessment (per CGS 10-221g).

These proposals would be a start in reducing the many administrative mandates placed on boards of education and paid for by property taxpayers.

Attached to this testimony are lists of education-related mandates compiled by the towns of Bristol and Monroe. As we enter a period of even greater budgetary constraints CCM urges you to suspend for three years all these education mandates except those required by court order or federal law. At the end of the three-year period the State should review the experience and permanently eliminate those that were not essential.

CCM supports Section 2 and encourages the committee to incorporate these two additional items into the bill.

- Section 4 of this bill would require the repayment of school breakfast grant funds if they are not used in conformity with the statutes. Current language leaves such authority to determine if grants funds are to be repaid with the Department of Education and could provide an opportunity for the local district to correct the problem instead of automatically punishing them.

CCM opposes this section.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM
via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.